Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02872 070902Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /048 W
----------072209Z 069348 /66
R 070830Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3885
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2872

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ET
SUBJ: HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH CAMPAIGN RESUMES

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 2754 B) ADDIS ABABA 2773

1. MORNING MAY 7 MAHARIC RADIO ANNOUNCED RESUMPTION OF ADDIS ABABA HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH CAMPAIGN. ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC HAS BEEN ORDERED OFF STREETS UNTIL MONDAY MORNING, MAY 9, EXCEPT THOSE WITH DIPLOMATIC AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT LICENSE PLATES OR SPECIAL PASSES. REGULAR ARMY TROOPS ARE STATIONED AT ALL MAJOR INTERSECTIONS AND EVERY 200-300 METERS, (PREVIOUS SEARCH USUALLY CONDUCTED BY UNTRAINED URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATION (KEBELE) DEFENSE SQUAD MEMBERS). MOST PEDESTRIANS BEING SEARCHED AND UNANNOUNCED SEARCHES OF HOMES ARE UNDERWAY. THERE APPARENTLY NO ADVANCED WARNING SEARCH TO HAVE RESUMED TODAY.

2. TROOPS ON DUTY APPEAR WELL-DISCIPLINED AND GENERALLY WELL-INSTRUCTED. THEY ALSO APPEAR TO BE SOME OF NEW RECRUITS OBSERVED AT MAY DAY RALLY, WHO ALMOST UNIFORMLY FROM SOUTHERN AND WESTERN PROVINCES. ALTHOUGH GENERAL ATMOSPHERE INITIALLY CONFUSED, SITUATION NOW ORDERLY AFTER 2-3 HOURS. THERE REPORTS OF SOME ARRESTS AND SOME GUNSHOTS DURING EARLIEST STAGES OF SEARCH, BUT
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THESE APPEAR TO HAVE CEASED FOR MOMENT. MANY SHOPS CLOSED TODAY, BUT THERE RUMOR SHOPOWNERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO OPEN BUSINESSES TOMORROW, SUNDAY, TO FACILITATE SEARCH. NORMAL AIRLINE SCHEDULES DISRUPTED, BUT SOME FLIGHTS STILL ARRIVING AND DEPARTING.

3. COMMENT: INITIAL STAGES OF SEARCH GIVE IMPRESSION OF INTENSE CAMPAIGN. "MORE ORGANIZED AND SOPHISTICATED METHODS" PROMISED

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IN MEGISTU MAY DAY SPEECH ARE EVIDENT. SEARCH STOPS SHORT OF 72-
HOUR HOUSE CONFINEMENT FOR ALL ADDIS RESIDENTS RUMORED IN PAST,
BUT DOES GO BEYOND PREVIOUS SEARCH CAMPAIGNS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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